

BOARD MEMBERS: Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman ★ Bradley K. Sinnott ★ Zachary E. Manifold ★ Kimberly E. Marinello

DIRECTOR: William A. Anthony, Jr., DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Dana Walch

**For Immediate Release**  
**June 4, 2013**

### **Board of Elections Refers Potential Vote Fraud to Prosecutor**

**(Columbus)** The Franklin County Board of Elections has referred 90 cases of potential vote fraud to the office of Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien.

The cases involve individuals who voted absentee both by mail and in-person at the county's early vote center or at their local polling place on Election Day.

The board of elections sent a letter to each voter asking for an explanation. Thirty-eight responded and gave answers ranging from forgetting that they had voted earlier to voting a second time because they were afraid the ballot they'd mailed in would not arrive in time to count in the election. Another voter admitted deliberately voting twice-once by mail and again at the early vote center- because he wanted to "test the system."

Deputy Director Dana Walch said, "the degree of potential fraud is small considering that nearly 575,000 voted in Franklin County last November, but elections are sometimes decided by even smaller differences than the number of cases we've referred today."

Republican board members Doug Preisse and Brad Sinnott voted in favor of referral while Democratic board members Zach Manifold and Kimberly Marinello abstained.

Vote fraud is a fourth degree felony in Ohio punishable by up to eighteen months in jail. The Franklin County Board of Elections referred three cases of double voting to the prosecutor last year resulting in guilty pleas on a reduced charge in each case.

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